

with the reference character "28". No new matter has been

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated December 20, 2000. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

The drawings were objected to because the reference character "16" has been used to designate both the actuator shaft and the pivot pin in figure 1. Drawing fig. 1 has been corrected in red ink to indicate that the pivot pin is associated with the reference character "28".

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dozier in view of Williams. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Dozier discloses the brake spider 12 welded to the back plate. However, Dozier fails to disclose the pneumatic brake actuator directly mounted to the brake spider. Moreover, Dozier suggests, nor provides any motivation to directly mount the actuator to the brake spider 12.

Williams discloses a brake assembly including the back plate, the brake actuator mounted to the back plate, not to the brake spider.

spider.

The Examiner notes that it would have been obvious ordinary skill in the art to have provided Dozier's brake assembly with the brake actuating assembly as taught by . However, the Examiner fails to cite any prior reference that would disclose an axle beam and drum brake assembly that comprises a brake spider secured to an axle beam, and a brake actuator directly mounted to the brake spider to assemble the brake assembly as a module and use the assembly for numerous variations of axle beams and suspension arrangements.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed all the claim limitation must be taught or suggested by art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974) 2143.03). Clearly, prior art references cited by the Examiner lack any motivation or suggestion to directly mount the brake actuator to the brake spider, which is in turn directly secured to the axle beam.

Moreover, the mere fact that references can be combined does not render the resultant combination obvious. The prior art also suggests the desirability of the claimed

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In re Mills, 916 F.2d 680, 16 USPQ2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The prior art references cited by the Examiner suggests the desirability of directly mounting the pneumatic brake actuator to the brake spider.

Therefore, the Examiner's conclusion that directly mounting the pneumatic brake actuator to the brake spider, which is turn directly secured to the axle beam, is obvious per se improper.

Also, The Examiner notes that Dozier shows in Fig. 1 a single piece axle spindle and brake spider assembly. The applicant respectfully disagrees.

As clearly shown in Fig. 1, the brake spider 12 and the axle 18 are two distinctively separate parts (please note the different hatching of the brake spider 12 and the axle 18). This assumption is supported by the specification that discloses in column 2, lines 55-60 that the brake spider 12 is welded to the axle 18. Thus, the Examiner's position is erroneous.

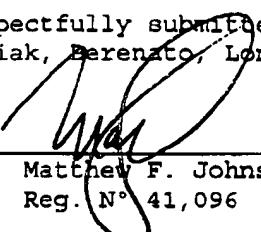
Therefore, we believe that claims 1-8 define the invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance. And notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe further discussion re-

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above claim language would expedite prosecution they are
to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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